Substitute for petroleum products

680. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that natural gas is emerging as an important substitute for petroleum products;

(b) if so, various sectors|industries which can make use of natural gas;

(c) what are the details of various schemes/projects drawn to make available natural gas; and

(d) what progress has been made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Natural gas can be used as a feedstock or fuel in most industries.

(c) and (d) Government have approvided several oil and gas field development projects including Neelam, Mukta, Panna, additional development of L-II and L-III reservoirs of Bombay High field, R-15A and Gandhar fields. These are under various stages of implementation.

Production of Oil

681. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the achievement made in the production of oil against the target set for 1991-92;

(b) how this compares with 1990-91 and 1989-90;

(c) what are the reasons for shortfall in the production of oil; and

(d) the details of various measures taken to boost oil production and narrow the gap between demand and supply of petroleum products?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) The production of crude oil in the country during the year 1991-92 was 30.345 mlilion tonnes against the target of 31.8 million tonnes.

(b) The production of crude oil during the years 1990-91 and 1989-90 was 33 million tonnes and 34.09 million tonnes respectively.

(c) the reasons for shortfall include reservoir constraints, disturbed law and order situation in the Eastern Region and strike by ONGC employees in September, 1991.

(d) In order to augment indigenous production of crude oil, Government have approved seven oil field development projects. Government have also permitted private investment in this area which is expected to bring additional resources and technology to this sector.

Utilisation of Natural gas

682. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to utilise the natural gas obtained from Narimanam, in Tamil Nadu by the Electricity Boards; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) Allocation of 0.057 MMSCMD of gas has been made to Tamil Nadu Electricity Board.

Setting up of L.P.G. Plant

683. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to

set up a plant for supplying LPG by the Indian Oil Corporation at Inamkulathur, Trichey District in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps are being taken to commission this plant?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c) There is a proposal to set-up a 44 TMTPA LPG bottling plant in Trichy District of Tamil Nadu. This is, however, subject to techno-economic feasibility, product availability etc.

Purchase of Oil

684. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is buying more oil from spot market than from term contracts;

(b) if so, what are the details therefore and the quantity of oil purchased during the last 3 years, yearwise;

(c) what are the reasons for purchasing more oil from spot market; and

(d) what steps are being taken to reduce purchase of oil from spot market and measures to reduce its imports?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) The import of crede oil during the last three years was as under:—

Quantity / MMT

	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92
Term	12·260	12·634	10·605
Spot	7·597	8·063	13·423
TOTAL :	19·857	20·697	24·028

(c) During 1991-92 spot purchases were higher mainly due to shortfall in supply from erstwhile USSR and shortfall in indigenous production which had to be made good on month to month basis under spot purchases.

(d) Indian Oil Corporation have enhanced the quantities under term contracts with national oil companies during the eyar 1992-93 thereby reducing the spot purchases. In order to reduce the imports new oil production projects are being taken up and efforts are also being made to attract private sector investment in the oil production projects.

Setting up of a gas terminal at Usar

685. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total gas production in Bombay High;

(b) what quantity of gas transported through HBJ pipeline;

(c) what is the progress in setting up of a second gas terminal at Usar;